I. Claims 1-11, drawn to a reticle management system with a transfer mechanism, classified in class 414, subclass 277.

II. Claims 12-14 drawn to a reticle management system with a recticle sorter, classified in class 209, subclass 509.

2. <u>Election</u>

Without traversal Applicants hereby elect to proceed with the invention as defined in Species I, as defined by claims 1-11 in the instant application.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully assert that the present application is in condition for examination. Should the Examiner have any questions with regard to the instant response, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0639 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 7.22.02

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